

United States
Environmental Protection
Agency
Region I

Office of
Public Affairs
John F. Kennedy Federal Building
Boston, Massachusetts 02203

Connecticut
Maine
Massachusetts
New Hampshire
Rhode Island
Vermont

Environmental News

July 10, 1985

Jackie Prince (617) 223 1951 Project Officer
For more information call David Pickman (617) 223 5752 Public Affairs

\$50,000 ALLOCATED FOR SIGNS, FENCES IN NEW BEDFORD

BOSTON -- Allocation of \$50,000 for new warning signs at the New Bedford Harbor Superfund site was announced today by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The allocation also provides for fencing, but EPA is negotiating with the City of New Bedford to perform this task at City expense.

At the same time, EPA Regional Administrator Michael R. Deland urged the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to add to these precautions "a visible enforcement program" at the hazardous waste site on the Acushnet River estuary north of the Route 195 Bridge.

EPA will erect signs in English and Portuguese around the upper estuary in areas containing one to over 100,000 parts per million of PCBs (polychlorinated biphenyls). The two-foot square signs will say, "WARNING. KEEP OUT. ENVIRONMENTAL HAZARD. NO SWIMMING. NO FISHING. NO SHELLFISHING. NO LOBSTERING. PER ORDER DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH."

The fencing will prevent easy access to two recreational areas adjacent to the contaminated shoreline on the New Bedford side of the upper estuary.

Warning signs were erected by EPA in the summer of 1984 but many were knocked down and swept away by winter storms. The new signs will be erected above the storm, high water mark.

Waste PCBs were discarded by two electrical manufacturing plants on the New Bedford side of the Acushnet, and they now contaminate sediments in the Estuary and New Bedford-Fairhaven Harbor. EPA is studying the extent of contamination and possible cleanup measures.

PCBs, which accumulate in the tissues of fish, shellfish and crustaceans (including lobsters), are suspected of causing cancer.

RECEIVED
JUL 11 1965
SUPERFUND BRANCH